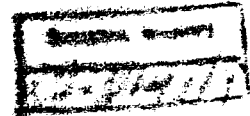


SECRET**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

201/010 1000-10
4 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM :
National Intelligence Officer at Large

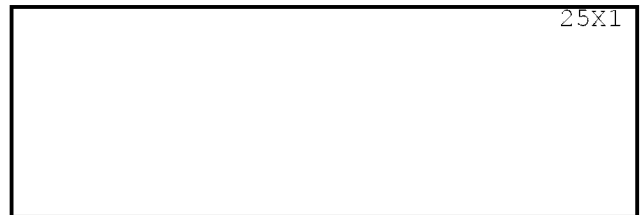
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SUBJECT : Talking Points on "Yellow Rain"

1. The attached talking points are for your meeting this afternoon with Judge Clark. There are three points worth making:

- The new DCI Intelligence Working Group on CW Toxin Use is working well.
- There is important new scientific evidence received yesterday that extends our knowledge and confirms our previous judgments about mycotoxin use in Southeast Asia.
- With one exception, we have received no good reports of lethal CW use in Afghanistan since March. There has also been a fall-off of new reports from Southeast Asia, but this may be due to reporting artifact.

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Attachment
Talking Points**SECRET**CL BY signer
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TALKING POINTS on "YELLOW RAIN"

Intelligence Working Group on CBW USE

- Because of the continuing importance to policy of the CBW Use issue, I have recently established a new Interagency Working Group to manage and coordinate all collection, analysis and reporting on this issue.
- The new group is working well and has developed a mechanism to expedite the processing of intelligence data and its transfer to State and other policy people in support of major current policy initiatives including arms control, compliance and verification.
- A past problem area the Working Group is concentrating on is the streamlining of the sample analysis process through the appropriate laboratory and reporting phases.

New scientific evidence

- Within the past few days, several sets of samples from attacks in early 1982 in Southeast Asia have been reported out of lab analysis.
- They include, for the first time, pathological and tissue analysis from autopsy material performed by both US and Canadian forensic specialists, new blood results, and physical-environmental samples from attack sites.
- The results further confirm our earlier judgments of mycotoxin use in Southeast Asia and enhance our knowledge of mycotoxin effects on human victims.
- The Working Group is evaluating the meaning and significance of these results in parallel with their declassification and dissemination of the results to State/PK and the UK.

Sharp diminution of new attack reports

- Since March of this year, there has been a significant fall-off of reporting on new attack incidents, inspite of a considerably enhanced collection effort. Only a single credible report of CW use has been obtained from Afghanistan, and relatively few new incidents have been reported from Southeast Asia.

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- It is too early to draw conclusions from this relative quiescence, since it may only be an hiatus for seasonal or tactical reasons.
- But we cannot rule out the possibility that the Soviet leadership, in the face of the widely publicized US charges, have decided to put a halt to the attacks.